

Message Text

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70

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SWF-02 AID-20 CEA-02 COME-00 EB-11 FRB-02

CIEP-02 STR-08 TRSE-00 LAB-06 SIL-01 SAM-01 OMB-01

NEA-14 DRC-01 /171 W

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R 101800Z JUL 74

FM USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0000

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMCONSUL STRASBOURG

UNCLAS EC BRUSSELS 5089

E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, EEC

SUBJECT: SAUVAGNARGUES AT EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

1. SUMMARY. FRENCH FOREIGN MINISTER SAUVAGNARGUES, NEW PRESIDENT OF THE EC COUNCIL OF MINISTERS, MADE HIS MAIDEN APPEARANCE BEFORE THE EUROPEAN PARILAMENT AT ITS JULY 9 SESSION AT STRASBOURG. HIS PREPARED ADDRESS WAS LONG ON GENERALITIES AND DELIVERED RATHER PERFUNCTORILY. IT WAS THUS NOT THE MAJOR POLICY STATEMENT SOME PEOPLE WERE HOPING FOR AND WAS CRITICIZED BY SPEAKERS FROM THE PARLIAMENT. SAUVAGNARGUES RECOUPED
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AT THE END THROUGH SKILLFUL DEBATING BUT STILL

AVOIDED SPECIFICS. END SUMMARY.

2. THE JULY 9 SESSION OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT IN STRASBOURG, WHICH HAD BEEN BILLED INITIALLY BY PARILAMENT PRESIDENT BERKHOUWER AS A MAJOR AFFAIR TO BE ATTENDED BY ALL NINE FOREIGN MINISTERS, BEGAN AS SOMETHING CONSIDERABLY LESS. SAUVAGNARGUES DID ATTEND, AS IS USUAL FOR THE COUNCIL PRESIDENT, BUT HE WAS THE SOLE FOREIGN MINISTER, AND IN FACT HE ARRIVED AT 4:00 P.M., HAVING LEFT THE SCHMIDT/GISCARD LUNCH IN BONN EARLY. SAUVAGNARGUES' PREPARES SPEECH ON THE LEAD TOPIC, " A DISCUSSION ON THE STATE OF THE COMMUNITY," WAS MARRED BY A LACKLUSTER DELIVERY AND, AS HE ADMITTED AFTERWARDS, AN OVERDOSE OF PLATITUDES. THE SPEECH PLEDGED TO MOVE AHEAD AND NOT LOSE SIGHT OF THE 1980 TARGET. SAUVAGNARGUES RECOGNIZED THE COMMUNITY HAD MAJOR PROBLEMS BUT BELIEVED THEY WERE SUSCEPTIBLE TO REALISTIC, PRAGMATIC TREATMENT, AND HE SAID HE COULD SEE HOPE ON THE HORIZON. HE CITED THE AGREEMENT ON AN EC/ARAB DIALOGUE AS THE MOST IMPORTANT RECENT EXAMPLE OF A SUCCESSFUL COOPERATIVE EFFORT, AND HE LOOKED FOR MORE SUCH SPECIFIC PROGRESS, INCLUDING A COMMUNITY POLICY TOWARD THE MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AND, MOST IMPORTANTLY, IN ENERGY.

3. THE PREDOMINANT REACTION FROM THE FLOOR WAS DIS-APPOINTMENT. SAUVAGNARGUES WAS CHIDED FOR HIS RELIANCE ON PLATITUDES, AND THE SPEAKERS MADE IT CLEAR THEY EXPECTED MORE FROM HIM WHEN THE PARLIAMENT AGAIN TAKES UP THE SUBJECT IN OCTOBER.

4. SAUVAGNARGUES IN HIS REPLY RECOGNIZED THAT HE HAD BEEN FAIRLY GENERAL BUT ASKED HOW HE COULD BE VERY SPECIFIC WHEN, FOR EXAMPLE, IT WAS NOT KNOWN WHO WOULD BE GOVERNING THE UK IN OCTOBER. HE DID SOME CHIDING OF HIS OWN BY TICKING OFF A NUMBER OF MINOR PROBLEMS AREAS OF HIS CITED BY PARLIAMENTARIANS AS OMISSIONS IN HIS PREPARED ADDRESS. WHEN FACED WITH ENERGY AND BALANCE OF PAYMENTS PROBLEMS OF SUCH A MAGNITUDE THAT "ONE COUNTRY COULD DIE," HE SAID HE COULD NOT SEE THAT UNCLASSIFIED

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SUCH MATTERS AS THE BUDGETARY PROBLEMS OF THE ASSEMBLY WERE OF THE FIRST ORDER OF MAGNITUDE. OF THE U.S. HE SAID "WE ARE NOT AGAINST THEM, BUT WE ARE NOT ALWAYS WITH THEM". HE SAID THE FRANCO/GERMAN RELATIONSHIP SHOULD NOT WORRY ANYONE, CALLING IT A "PILLAR OF EUROPEAN UNITY" BUT NOT EXCLUSIVE.

5. COMMENT:. IT WAS ALMOST CERTAINLY TOO SOON FOR

SAUVAGNRAGUES TO BE VERY FORTHCOMING--EITHER IN HIS
EC COUNCIL OR HIS NATIONAL CAPACITY, BUT THE
PARLIAMENTARIANS DID THEIR BEST TO PRESS HIM AND
MAKE CLEAR THAT THE PARLIAMENT IS NOT WILLING TO BE
SERVED UP BOILER PLATE DURING THE FRENCH PRESIDENCY
OF THE COUNCIL, END COMMENT.GREENWALD

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